

Horticulture Northwest

Journal of the Northwest Ornamental Horticultural Society



Garrya Fremontii

Horticulture Northwest

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Membership Chairman
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Sallie D. Allen, Editor

We welcome original articles, artwork and black and white photographs from contributors. Back issues of the Journal are available to members at \$2.50 each.

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Sallie D. Allen
18540 26th Avenue N.E.
Seattle, Washington 98155

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CONTENTS

Ericaceous Plants of Iceland Barry N. Starling	1
Hardy Plant Society	4
Center for Urban Horticulture News Dr. Harold B. Tukey	5
Alpines '81 Members' Report Frances K. Roberson	6
Book Review	7
Pest Profiles Sharon Collman	8
A Daughter's View of a Gardening Mother Cornelia J. Duryee	10
Layers of a Hokkaido Forest Part II Brian Halliwell	11
A Winter Walk Through the Leach Garden Vernese Sharp	14
Tidbits	16
NOHS Seed Disbursement	17
Letters to the Editor	18
Cover Illustration: Garrya Fremontii Vernese Sharp	



Ericaceous Plants of Iceland

Barry N. Starling, Epping Upland, England

As my fascination for ericaceous plants deepened, I became increasingly interested in the natural distribution of these plants in the wild and the variation in the character of a species from one location to another. Of particular interest were the several species which ranged from Europe--often Scandinavia--to North America via Great Britain, Iceland and Greenland and then on to Japan via the string of islands hanging from the Alaska promontory.

One of these, to which I am giving particular attention, is *Phyllodoce caerulea*. The Japanese form of this plant has been in my garden for many years, often causing me to wonder why Linnaeus should choose the specific epithet "caerulea" for a plant with flowers which would be of a pleasant pink if it were not for the dash of magenta which muddies them. Three years ago, during a visit to Linnaeus' homeland I found, just across the border in Norway, the form of *Phyllodoce caerulea* that the "father of Botany" would have known and, though not caerulean blue, it was closer to blue than to any other basic colour of the spectrum.

During the summer of 1981, I visited Iceland with two main objectives: one, to see *Cassiope hypnoides* in flower--I had missed it in Norway and Sweden; and two, to find and compare the *Phyllodoce caerulea* of Iceland with its counterparts in Japan and Norway.

My main center of operations was Akureyri, a pleasant, friendly town in Northern Iceland, just sixty miles south of the Arctic Circle. A ramble over the slopes of 5,000 feet (1,528 meters) Mount Kerling, to the southwest of Akureyri, soon satisfied my first objective, for here the tiny threads of moss-like stems and sprinkled, clear white, downturned goblets of *Cassiope hypnoides* were plentiful above 2,000 feet. Finely eroded lava silt had combined with centuries of rotted turf and sedges to create the seeming paradox of a water retentive, but sharply draining medium which *C. hypnoides* shared on roughly equal terms with *Salix herbacea*, with an occasional challenge from *Vaccinium uliginosum* var. *minor* or *Loiseleuria procumbens*.

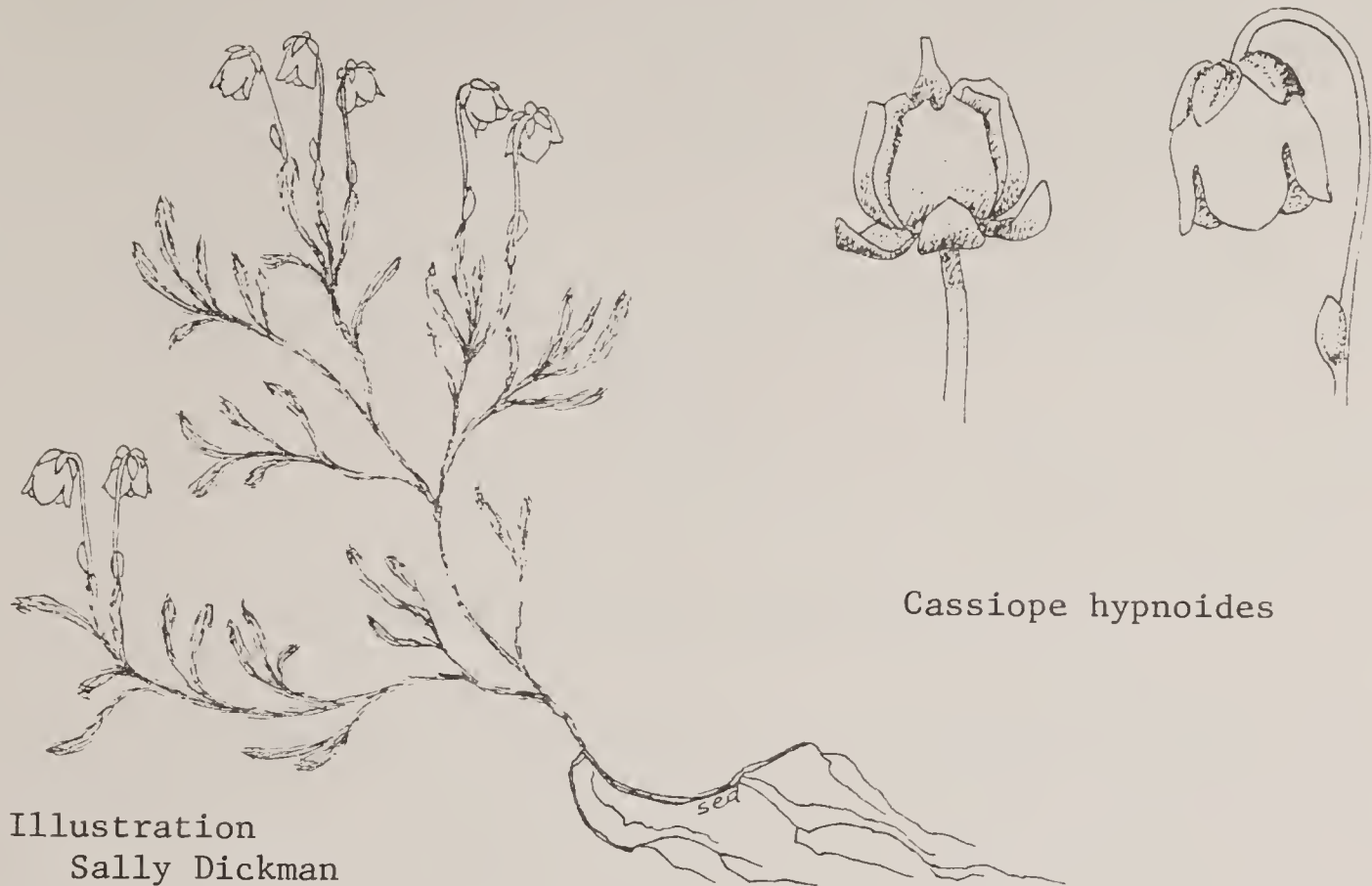
The *Loiseleuria* started, quite spectacularly, lower down, forming irregular shaped, flat mats up to two feet across, studded overall with hundreds of light to deep pink, tiny stars. In places, the minute oval leaves were conspicuously margined with gold. One seedling, so marked, has produced new growth in cultivation of perfectly normal, dark green, and I can only assume that the roots of the wild plants had strayed beyond the shallow, peaty overlay in which they grew, to take up an excess of some disagreeable element from the basalt below.

A subsequent forty miles of trekking in the area failed to locate *Phyllodoce caerulea*, though the discovery of such delights as the true Iceland poppy, *Papaver radicatum*, *Ranunculus glacialis*, familiar from continental European alps and the flamboyant riverside dweller straying here from North America, *Epilobium latifolium*, all helped to revive flagging spirits. Obviously, I needed help and this was at hand in Akureyri. Among other amenities, the town boasts a small, but very fine Botanic Garden which was to draw me back no less

than five times and account for almost three, 36-exposure rolls of film, as I marvelled at the range of plants thriving so close to the Arctic Circle. The Director was very helpful, locating the precise position on my map that I may expect to find *P. caerulea*. The area that I had intended to search stopped four miles south of this point so I could easily have wasted much time without the Director's help.

Following the road out of Akureyri along the western side of Eyjafjörður, I came, after about thirty miles, to the fishing village of Dalvík. Two miles north of Dalvík stands a monument to a bygone seaman, in the form of a sailing ship. Leaving the road some 100 yards further on, I headed at an angle of about 45 degrees towards a cleft in the mountains cut by a glacial stream. About two or three hundred yards from the road I stopped to admire and photograph a small stand of *Vaccinium myrtillus* comprised of vigorous plants bearing extra large, Chinese lantern-like corollas of amber-red--far more beautiful than any I had yet seen. Seed, of course, was not available, nor any sign of small seedlings, so I carefully wrapped several cuttings in sphagnum moss, but sadly, these have not rooted. So preoccupied was I with the *Vaccinium* that it was some time before I noticed a somewhat threadbare patch of *Phyllodoce caerulea* close by. As I realized that this was but an isolated patch of about two square yards and no other stands were in evidence, preconceived dreams of wandering through acres of purple haze, selecting superior forms or finding the odd albino, just melted away. However, the Director had said the plant was to be found at 200-300 meters above sea level and, as yet, I was nowhere near that height.

It was then that I realized that I was enveloped in a cold drizzle brought by the clouds coming down the mountainside to meet me. The safest course was to keep to the stream, and this I did, passing through promising-looking vegetation on the way up. Finally, the stream scurried under a huge snowbank and disappeared, apparently without leading me to my objective. The snowbank was a good landmark in the fog, and I explored the area, radiating out from it just a few yards in each direction. I dallied among the rocks loathe to admit defeat and commence my descent. Gradually, through the haze, I became aware of a pink that was not *Silene acaulis*, nor *Armeria* or *Thyme*. Yes--here it was--*Phyllodoce caerulea*--and what a surprise! My first impression was that it was very much closer to the Japanese form than the Scandinavian, for there was no hint of blue--but neither was there any trace of magenta to these unusually large pink corollas. Perhaps the cold raindrops reflected just a touch of lavender as they rolled down the nodding blooms, dripping rhythmically from the frill around the constricted mouth of the corolla. The stand did not extend more than ten yards in any direction, and it would have been foolhardy for me to have searched for more colonies in that fog. In most instances the small shrubs tucked themselves against boulders with winds from the Arctic preventing any appreciable extension of shoots above the rocks. Although Ostenfeld and Grøntved's The Flora of Iceland and the Faeroes was too vaguely worded to help me locate the *Phyllodoce*, in one respect it was correct. As stated, *Phyllodoce* was to be found growing together with *Calluna vulgaris*, and on that particular hillside the two buddies stuck closely together. My visit was in early July, and it is likely that snow had lingered on these slopes, burying the *Phyllodoce* until two or three weeks previously.



The next day, I followed the tourist route eastwards some sixty miles to Lake Myvatn, an area of recently turbulent terra-not-so-firma and very low rainfall. *Arctostaphylos uva-ursi* was the first ericaceous plant to catch my eye, forming broad, dark green patches up to twelve feet in diameter, on the inhospitable, bare lava rocks. Sometimes huge tablecloths of it were draped over isolated chunks of family-size-table dimensions, the dark green being embroidered and enlivened with thousands of clusters of white, pink-rimmed corollas. Drainage was perfect, precipitation averaged 16 inches a year, so how could any ericaceous shrub, notorious for their intolerance of drought, withstand such conditions?

An answer came to me the next day as I sat in a sheltered suntrap high in the hills, contemplating a patchwork carpet of *Loiseleuria procumbens*, *Cassiope hypnoides* and fluffy yellow catkins of *Salix herbacea*. The previous day had been showery, the last shower falling during late afternoon after which a light breeze kept the clouds at bay. Now, almost twenty-four hours later, the plants I was observing were still covered in droplets of water as if the shower had at that minute ceased. Back home, in Southeastern England, there would have been not a scrap of evidence of such a summer shower half-an-hour afterwards. Foliage, flowers and surrounding soil would have been completely dry. Here then, in this cool, moisture-laden air, transpiration is reduced to a minimum. The growing season is short, the initial boost to the new season's growth coming from the melting snow with water from subsequent showers lingering on and around the plants for them to receive maximum benefit.

Just one of the ericaceous plants known to inhabit Iceland eluded me. This was *Vaccinium vitis-idaea*, a species widespread in its distribution over the northern hemisphere, and varying in stature from an entirely prostrate mat with thyme-sized leaves to a robust, stoloniferous ground-cover of 15 inches in height and indeterminate spread. In Iceland it is quite rare, inhabiting only one area in the extreme east of the country, where it reaches three or four inches in height and produces its scarlet berries which, along with the blue-black berries of the other two *Vaccinium* species, form a substantial contribution to the larder of the immense variety of bird life in Iceland.



Hardy Plants Society Weekend

Alan Bloom of England headlines the Hardy Plant Society's Study Weekend Three at Edmonds Community College, June 18, 19 and 20. Bloom, a founder of this society, is its current president. (He will be a featured NOHS lecturer June 15, in an evening talk at the Museum of History and Industry). Friday, June 18, he begins the Study Weekend with an evening talk, "The Fen, the Dell and Steam," about the development of the noted Bressingham Gardens at his home. His hardy perennial nursery is the largest in the world, 75 acres of perennials, plus another 50 acres in alpenes, propagation areas, heathers and dwarf conifers, with the famed nine-acre display garden. Bloom began as a nurseryman nearly 60 years ago. He has written more than 20 books (and will autograph books at the weekend), and is also an expert on steam engines and steam trains--his Bressingham Steam Museum is the largest British private collection, housing many engines including the famous Royal Scot. He will give a different Saturday lecture with many slides of newer perennials taken last summer in his gardens.

Cofeatured will be Dilys Davies, Chairman of England's Northwest Group of the Hardy Plant Society. She will be the Saturday dinner speaker on, "Grayrigg: Cottage on a Hill," her Lakes District garden near Ullswater where she gardens on a steep rocky site. Mrs. Davies will give a second talk on, "Alliums," a genus she has grown extensively. Virginia Moore of Seattle will speak on Japan and demonstrate Japanese flower arranging. Other speakers and their topics include Robert Schreiner, Salem, Oregon, "Modern Iris;" Loie Benedict, Auburn, "Another View;" Charles Tubesing, University of British Columbia Botanic Garden, "Plants from Seed;" Maureen Philips, Seattle, "Specialist Gardens;" Willis Collins, Seattle, "Dahlias;" and Ann Wambach, Edmonds, "Sissinghurst Gardens."

Sunday the group will tour the Seattle gardens of the John Burns', the A. K. Frees' and the John Sharpes' (the Canadian Consulate), as well as the McDonald garden at Hunt's Point, the Loie Benedict garden at Auburn and perhaps one more. Extensive exhibits and displays are planned as part of the weekend, a special presentation of new garden books for sale, seed and plant sales. Cost is \$30 at the door, or \$25 if payment is received before June 1, with members of the British Hardy Plant Society prepaying early receiving an additional \$5 discount. Banquet cost is a separate \$9. The event is limited to 150 persons. For information, write Evie Douglas, 11907 Nevers Road, Snohomish, Washington 98290, phone (206) 568-2829; or Ann Wambach, (206) 775-1797 or Marvin Black, (206) 546-4258.

Center for Urban Horticulture News

Dr. Harold B. Tukey, Jr., Director of Center for Urban Horticulture

University of Washington

1981 was another good year for the Center for Urban Horticulture. Dr. John Wott joined the faculty as Professor of Continuing Education and Dr. James Clark arrived in June as Assistant Professor of Environmental Horticulture, bringing the total faculty up to five.

Graduate students include Ms. Dia Salogga who is working on the identification and control of *Cornus nuttalli* anthracnose, the epidemic which has been attacking Northwest dogwoods. It is not truly an anthracnose, but rather two separate fungal organisms, one that attacks the leaves and a second found in the stem. Neither organism has been described on these plants before, and positive identification is a major project. Ms. Sharon Thompson is developing a curriculum master plan for public educational activities of the Center. The study will analyze resources including staff, volunteers and funds, and will match resources with the various audiences the Center will attempt to research such as gardening organizations, homeowners, landscape architects and parks' personnel, among others. The plan will coordinate Center educational programs in horticulture including tours, study courses, and preparation of teaching materials.

The Union Bay building site for the Center has been cleared of the old barracks housing. Soil fill is being added and the site will be graded and seeded. The research nursery area will be fenced and research plantings will commence this spring. Planning of the research arboretum is going on presently, and initial test plants should be put out this spring.

Temporary laboratory and office space has been renovated in the old Plant Lab on the University campus, and the small greenhouses adjacent are ready for first experimental plants. A greenhouse supervisor has been hired who will look after the greenhouses and the outdoor research area at Union Bay.

Applications from several prospective graduate students have been received, and at least three new students are expected for Fall, 1982. One will work with Professor Witt on a plant materials research project using the collections of the Center's Washington Park Arboretum. Another will investigate methods of weed control in landscape plantings including use of mulches, ground covers, herbicides, and plant selection in cooperation with faculty from Washington State University.

The Center is grateful to NOHS for financial support during the year, never forgetting that the NOHS has had the development of the Center for Urban Horticulture as its primary goal for many years.



Alpines '81 Members' Report

Frances K. Roberson, Seattle, Washington

Various people who attended Alpines '81 Conference at Nottingham, England, have written interesting accounts of some of the plants which we were privileged to see there and elsewhere during the activities before and after the main event. However, the list of intriguing plants stretches to greath length and invites one to add still other treasures of note.

Ground covers were a specialty of my early years so, at Wisley, I was attracted by the two-inch high foliage of *Polygonum tenuicaule* which was almost eclipsed by the feathery white flowers with prominent stamens which rose on slightly taller stems. It seemed fitting that this import from Japan should carpet the ground under the weeping branches of a spectacular flowering tree - *Prunus subhirtella* 'Pendula' - from the same country.

A noteworthy ground cover at Savill Garden was labelled *Thymus drucei* 'Elfin', but *Thymus praecox* ssp. *arcticus* may be a synonym. Either name refers to an attractive thyme with tiny leathery leaves crowded along creeping stems and forming dense mats. Square flower stems rise three inches high and usually are hairy on two sides, a fact almost hidden by the rosy flowers.

A plant of exceptional interest to me, also at Savill Garden, was a Tasmanian podocarp, *Microcachrys tetragona*, low enough to be used as a ground cover, but alas, only suitable for frost-free areas. Nevertheless, I admired its tiny red cones borne on whip-like trailing branches with the persistent leaves occurring in four ranks to present a quadrangular appearance.

Many of the gardens we visited grew interesting iris. One in flower at Broadhurst was *Iris mellita* which combined warm brown and red coloring with cooler blue toward the margins. *Iris reichenbachii* var. *suaveolens* at Kew Gardens grew slightly taller, perhaps to ten inches. The flower was basically rich brown in color. Another one, this time in the mind-boggling show at Nottingham, was *Iris pumila* var. *attica*, a sturdy dwarf, but with soft yellow flowers shading to chartreuse.

Someone else has mentioned "Narcissus in lawns" as a happy memory. Nowhere was there a more outstanding display of this use of narcissus than at Savill Garden where our guide explained in detail that seed had been broadcast in the wet meadows, being careful to avoid pathways which must be mowed, had flowered in seven years and had made a good show in ten years. The result was glorious.

The woodland path at the Whiteleaf Garden of Dr. and Mrs. L. J. Bacon vied with the greenhouse and the rock garden to attract the most attention from visitors. But, a whimsical interest in "Lords-and-Ladies" beckoned me to the roadside proliferation of *Arum maculatum*, a veritable weed there and elsewhere, but the mostly arrow-shaped leaves made reality of a phantom of early reading for me.

The attractions in the garden of Mr. and Mrs. Roy Elliott ran the gamut from the very small white-flowered *Phyllodoce nipponica* to the large shrubs such as *Camellia japonica* 'Mathotiana Alba' and *Magnolia stellata* 'Rosea'. A handsome plant of *Daphne arbuscula* was heavily budded. Here were both *Jeffersonia diphylla* and *J. dubia* and such diverse plants as *Fritillaria lanceolata* 'Tristis', *Vaccinium glaucoalbum* from Sikkim, South American *Tropaeolum tricolor* displaying its bright saucy flowers strung on thin vining stems, *Ranunculus insignis* with its shiny leaves and butter-yellow flowers, and *Trillium sessile*. Our good fortune privileged us to move into the house after viewing the garden and here Mrs. Elliott and some of her friends served us a delicious lunch; one of the many special kindnesses shown us during our visit to England and Scotland.

In fact, my longest lasting and most joyful memories have to be of PEOPLE! There were old friends with whom one could renew ties; there were new acquaintances, some with familiar names and others previously unknown; there were "home town" people to rely on for any kind of help; then there were the committee members and many allied workers who made arrangements for our comfort and pleasure and managed to smile even when their duties were arduous; there were the speakers who stimulated our minds; there were the knowledgeable hosts in both private and public gardens; there were leaders on the bus tours who tried to answer all our questions; the list is endless and so is our gratitude to The People!



Book Review Rock Gardens, Wilhelm Schacht, Fifth Edition, Universe Books, New York, 1981. 192 pages, 115 color illustrations. Price £7.95

This is one of those rare treasures for the gourmet gardener that shows up from time-to-time amidst America's literary T.V. dinners. Written for the rock plant enthusiast, the book includes introductory techniques for alpine plants in containers and in the ground. There are numerous charts on plants for special sites, propagation techniques, phenology charts by color, and sources in Britain, Germany, Holland, Israel, Japan, New Zealand, North America and South Africa, as well as addresses for specialist societies in Australia, Britain, Canada, Denmark, France, New Zealand and the United States of America. Terse commentary imparts valuable cultural information on less well-known plants. (i.e., "*Townsendia exscapa* from North America is a dwarf plant with disproportionately large flowers, looking like stemless asters. It needs very poor soil between stones to keep it compact." "*Viola odorata*, the fragrant March-flowering violet is the first which springs to mind . . . 'Queen Charlotte' and 'Triumph' are particularly profuse and large.") The color prints, while not up to the quality of Schacht's slides, are of superior quality to most any in print, with the possible exception of some of the Japanese publications. (Gentians are actually the proper colors!) As the less concise Jim Archibald says in the introduction, "I hope that most readers will regard it with a more positive attitude and see it not only as a small book, which can stand on its own as sufficiently sound, modern and reasonably comprehensive to be the only book about alpine plants which many gardeners may ever need, but also as a book which opens doors into the more consuming, specialist aspects of this subject."

Dennis Thompson

PEST PROFILES

By Sharon J. Collman

Washington State University Cooperative Extension
in King County

EUROPEAN CRANEFLY

(*Tipula paladosa*)

HOST PLANTS:

Grasses are the primary hosts (lawns, turf, pastures) although weeds and low-growing plants, such as vegetables and strawberries near infested areas may be damaged.

DAMAGE:

The larva does minor feeding on grass roots, then in the spring consumes above ground portions. If the larvae are numerous, entire lawns are stripped to bare soil. Yellowing patches, disappearing grass, numerous holes and a fine "paste" over the soil are indicators of larval damage. (Note there are many other causes of lawn damage, such as diseases, thatch, dogs, etc. Identification of the true cause is important for effective control.)

DESCRIPTION:

Larvae: Mature larvae are one-half to one inch long, light gray to gray-brown, somewhat translucent legless "worms". In this stage they are also called leather jackets.

Adult crane flies look like large awkward mosquitoes. There are many crane-fly species of all sizes and colors. Only the European Crane Fly, which has smoky wings, is harmful.

LIFE CYCLE:

Although larvae are present in the soil from September through July, the damaging period is February through April (depending on winter temperatures). If the larvae are numerous (30 or more per square foot), they may damage lawns. Prior to February, they are so small that damage is slight and feeding negligible (winter conditions may eliminate the larvae entirely). From May to July, they enter a period of semi-dormancy, feed little and cause little damage.

Sampling in March or April to determine: 1) if larvae are present, 2) in great numbers is crucial to management of this pest.

Adults emerge in August and September (often in large numbers). However, except for laying new eggs, the adults are harmless to lawns and humans.

SAMPLING:

The simplest method is to search with a flashlight at night or on cloudy days, or to turn over a piece of sod and search in the root area (top three inches) for the worms (February through April).

CONTROL:

Birds such as starlings and robins will sometimes descend on a lawn in large numbers and feed on the larvae. Soil protozoans (small organisms) are known to attack the larvae.

Weather conditions probably account for the erratic population fluctuations. Dry fall or wet and freezing winters may cause population crash. Warm winters may cause early damage. Thus, sampling is essential.

Two pesticides, diazinon and dursban, are currently available from several companies. There are granular and liquid formulations available. The concentration may vary. Follow the directions on the supplemental label which may be separate from the label on the bottle or bag. (Ask the nursery personnel for a supplemental label.)

Apply pesticides when temperatures are above 55°F during fair weather if larvae are present in large numbers. Keep children and pets off treated areas until liquids soak in and dry off, or until granules disappear.

COMMENTS:

European Crane Fly may devastate some lawns while other nearby lawns remain lush and green. We can't really explain why this occurs. This is another reason why sampling is so important.

Even though lawns are stripped of all grass blades, there are crowns and roots which remain alive to grow back. Nevertheless, reseeding is a good idea.

More details are available by writing to:

Sharon Collman/European Crane Fly
King County Cooperative Extension
312 Smith Tower
Seattle, Washington 98104

Other lawn problems should also be diagnosed properly by your local Master Gardeners (contact WSU Cooperative Extension Office in your county).

EM 856	European Crane Fly
XB 81	European Crane Fly Supplement
EM 3825	Lawn Renovation
EM 3836	Thatch and Its Control



A Daughter's View of a Gardening Mother

Cornelia J. Duryee, Seattle, Washington

Mother is in the garden,
hiding. She lurks
among her alpine and her rhodod,
happy as a hypericum.
She has escaped us again.

Mother is in the garden,
safe from dishes and rock music,
hovering over her baby seeds,
proudly protecting her fern spores,
brooding like a maternity plant.

Mother is in the garden,
weeding voraciously.
She pounces on slugs with vengeance,
committing atrocities upon them.
The grubs don't stand a chance.

Mother is in the garden,
photosynthesizing. At least
I think that's what she said!
Something about glabrous gymnosperms
and glutinous grindelias.

Mother is in the garden,
rearranging again.
There's a new hill where the driftwood was,
and the rock work has metamorphosed.
She's moving four trees,
just for variety.

Mother is in the garden,
propagating prolifically.
She's potting primroses for the plant sale,
and pinching her primulas and potentillas.
This purges her and brings her peace.

Mother is in the garden;
Mother is in her world.
You'll find her by her bent-in-half posture,
and dirt-covered posterior--
But I wouldn't disturb her just now--
(She's trying to identify a new species).

N.O.H.S. NOTES

SPRING 1982

Supplement to the Horticulture Northwest

Shirley Gorman, Editor

President's Letter

Dear Members and Friends of N.O.H.S.:

The year 1981, was very active and fulfilling for Northwest Ornamental Horticultural Society. The lecture series, which was shared in part with the Tacoma Garden Club, was enthusiastically received. The Spring Fern Sale and Fall Plant Sale were well attended, in spite of severe rain storms.

The Educational Fund has passed the halfway mark toward its goal of \$100,000 which is an exceptional accomplishment for these uncertain times.

We were privileged to provide financial assistance to a graduate student from the University of Washington to attend the International Botanical Congress in Australia. She is writing an article for the Journal describing her experiences.

The idea of developing a Heritage Garden was introduced to Northwest Ornamental Horticultural Society by Dr. James Warren, Director of the Museum of History and Industry. They recognized the opportunity to demonstrate the far-reaching advantages of team effort in drawing on the expertise available from the University of Washington Urban Horticulture Center, City of Seattle Park Department, the Museum of History and Industry, and N.O.H.S. It is hoped that the concept of a Heritage Garden will become a reality in 1982.

Sincerely,

Lester W. Petit, President



Membership Application
NORTHWEST ORNAMENTAL HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

Policy:

To give financial support to the University of Washington Arboreta program and to other horticultural education endeavors.

Membership activities encompass:

Lecture Series, Study Groups, Annual Fern and Plant Sales, Tours of gardens of horticultural interest, Horticultural Journal.

(Please fill in form as you wish information to appear in yearbook.)

Mr. _____ Mrs. _____ Ms. _____ Miss _____

Name _____ (First Name) _____

Address _____ Phone _____

City & State _____ Zip _____

New Member (date) _____ Or Renewal (date) _____

(Membership renewals will come due January, May and September,
Whichever month is closest to date of Membership Application.)

PLEASE MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO:
Northwest Ornamental Horticultural Society

MAILING ADDRESS:
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Seattle, Washington 98195

TELEPHONE: 543-8800

TYPES OF MEMBERSHIP: (Please check one)

<input type="checkbox"/> Life	\$500.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Sponsoring	\$100.00 to \$500.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Supporting	\$ 50.00 to \$100.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Contributing	\$ 25.00 to \$ 50.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Active (Individual)	\$ 10.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Group or Family	\$ 15.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Nursery (Member Listing)	\$ 15.00

N.O.H.S. LECTURE SERIES

THE EYE OF THE DESIGNER

Sir Peter Shephard

Thursday, May 6, 1982

7:45 p.m. \$7.50 per person Auditorium, Museum of History and Industry

RHODODENDRON SPECIES FOUNDATION

Visitors Schedule:

ORIENTATION SESSIONS

Early Blooming Species Walk
Sunday, March 21, 1:00 to 5:00 p.m.

Wednesday, March 3 and 10

Primary Blooming Season Walks
Sundays, April 4 - May 30
1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.

New Volunteers 9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

Veteran Volunteers 12:30 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.

Wednesdays, April 7 - May 26
10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

N.O.H.S. FERN SALE - Mid June to be announced

ARBORETUM PLANT SALE, May 5 and 6

ABORETUM EXPLORERS WALKS

Fourth Wednesdays of the month, 10:00 a.m., Parking Lot

Additional walks on April 13

Public Weedings, fourth Thursdays, 10:00 a.m.

ORTHOPEDIC PLANT SALE, April 14 and 15, University Village,
10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m., Wednesday - 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

EDMONDS COMMUNITY COLLEGE HORTICULTURAL THERAPY

Spring Quarter, 1982 Topics

- | | |
|------------------|--|
| A. April 3, 1982 | Urban Gardening: Creative Communities |
| B. May 15, 1982 | Urban Gardening: Solving Neighborhood Problems |
| C. June 5, 1982 | The System: How to Start and Maintain Programs |

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SPRING GARDEN TOURS

Monday, April 5th
12:30 P.M.

Mini Eastside Nursery Tour
Two Specialty Nurseries

Meet at St. Thomas Episcopal Church,
84th Northeast and Northeast 12th,
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Price: \$5.00

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Friday, April 23rd
7:30 A.M.

North of the Border Garden Tour
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Dartshill - A private garden and a plantsman's
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Trees and shrubs from the Himalayas and China, Asiatic
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plants being collected. Expeditions to gather seeds
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before grown in Canada.

Price: \$40.00 (includes bus, luncheon and tours).

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Mrs. James R. Scott
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Reservations limited: No cancellations after
April 17, 1982.

Meeting Place: North end of the Washington Park
Arboretum (outside the gate) at
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NOHS NOTES

See page 19 of
Horticulture Northwest
for details.

Layers of a Hokkaido Forest

Brian Halliwell, Royal Botanic Garden, Kew, England

Part II Some Shrubs of Japanese Forests

As in all forests, the shrub content varies according to the amount of light which penetrates the tree canopy. Shrubs are, therefore, most numerous on forest fringes, at altitudinal limits, along tracks in glades and clearings. In all these areas in the process of regeneration, there will be thickets of shrub-like trees: maples, mountain ash, oaks, birch and cottonwoods. The strongest only of these will make trees at the expense of the weaker, which will die out. Quite independent of these are other kinds of shrubs which can tolerate, even demand, shade during summer when the tree canopy of foliage is at its thickest. These, which may be deciduous or evergreen, tend to flower in spring before there are any tree leaves or these have developed fully and whilst the light is still good.

A shrub that is much despised in gardens is privet, which has been much overplanted for hedges, and yet, if allowed to grow naturally can be handsome, either in flower or fruit. Along the banks of streams were occasionally bushes of *Ligustrum tschonoski* which in October were shedding yellowing leaves, although clusters of blue-black berries remained. Another shrub in the same category as the privet is the spotted laurel. Commonly planted during the last century soon after its arrival from Japan, it gained popularity because it would stand regimentation by regular clipping to keep to a predetermined shape, was tolerant of low light and of atmospheric pollution. Unfortunately, it is the sickly or sickening yellow-spotted form which is always seen. Why, I wonder, could not the plain green kind have been planted which is much more handsome--especially when in fruit. *Aucuba japonica borealis* is the form which occurs in Hokkaido which is more spreading and smaller in all its parts than the form most usually seen in gardens. Another 19th century legacy is *Skimmia japonica* a much more acceptable shrub, for in addition to being evergreen has bunches of fragrant white flowers often flushed pink in April and May and later long lasting red berries which seem untouched by birds. The form in the Hokkaido forests is variety *repens* which is low growing with main stems growing below ground level from which upright stems are produced. It would make a good ground cover if brought into our gardens.

Another plant which can be grown as ground cover is *Euonymus fortunei* an evergreen species which is most often seen in one of its variegated forms. In its juvenile form the stems produce climbing roots as in ivy and in forests these attach themselves to trunks of trees and climb up towards the light. Less commonly, this climbing habit is made use of in gardens to cover a shady wall. Flowers which are small and green are easily unnoticed, but the fruit which follows is showy. This is white which split and curls back to display rather fleshy yellow seeds. In cultivation fruiting seems a rare occurrence. As so often the plants grown are in their juvenile form, this may explain a failure to flower. Alternatively can it be that male and female flowers do not appear on the same plant--a condition which does occur in *Celastraceae*. Not all species of *Euonymus* are evergreen and the deciduous

kinds mostly produce spectacular fall colour, which varies from pink to scarlet to crimson. When the leaves have been shed, there remain the fruits, which are pink and red and split open to expose orange seeds. Of 15 species in Japan, I found two in Hokkaido which were tree-like, both of which were deciduous: *E. planipies* and *E. oxyphyllus*.

Another plant which in the deepest shade of the forests produced a carpet of evergreen foliage was *Ilex sugerokii peduncularis*. When light was good and in forest fringes, instead of being prostrate it would make an upright shrub up to four feet. In deep shade, leaves were less than one-half inch; in better light they may be twice this size and in such position in the axils there could be single rather dull red berries. Another genus which provides a display with its fruits is *Viburnum* which has species that can be evergreen or deciduous. Although there are many species in Japan, I found only one and this was deciduous. Its fall colour was brilliant. If in shade this was yellow, but if light was good it was gold, scarlet or crimson depending on exposure. *Viburnum furcatum* has three displays, for in addition to the fall colour, there are small flat-topped bunches of flower which has an outer row of white sterile showy florets. These are followed by berries which at first are bright red, but deepen with colour as they ripen until they become black. Not dissimilar in flower is the *Hydrangea*. One of the most popular flowering pot plants sold by florists is *H. macrophylla* whose flower heads are composed of sterile flowers which may be white, pink, red, mauve or blue. This species comes into Hokkaido as the variety *megacarpa*, quite unlike that with which we decorate our homes. The species is often widely planted out-of-doors in a woodland garden, where it gives a long floral display for the sterile flowers in the coloured forms hang on for many months, gradually changing colour as they age. Another species which is grown in gardens is *H. paniculata* which has white conical heads of flowers which are produced in late summer. This was quite common and in clearings and where light was good this made a large shrub--even small tree.

Hamamelis japonica, Japanese witch hazel, produces its spidery yellow flowers in February and March. It was an occasional large shrub, even small tree, along the sides of streams. In October, there was good fall colour with leaves of a good clear yellow, even in deep shade.

In a woodland garden the most desirable of shrubs are to be found in the family *Ericaceae*. A rarity which I had never previously seen was *Tripetaleia* which still had a few curious white flowers as late as October. There seemed to be two different kinds. Owhi in his Flora of Japan has two species *T. bracteata* and *T. paniculata*, although Bean in Trees and Shrubs Hardy in the British Isles writes that it is a genus of a single species: *T. paniculata*. It is allied to the rare American *Elliotia*. Although these plants have a long flowering season, they could not be called showy. Few, however, would disagree with the merits of *Enkianthus campanulatus* as a flowering plant. In May, just as the new leaves are expanding, masses of tiny pendulous flowers appear, bell-shaped creamy-yellow or buff with red markings. By October, there were fall tints only which were yellow-tinged with pink.

To most gardeners the pride of place in a woodland garden must be given to rhododendrons: there are cranks who see no merit in any other plant. Japan has provided handsome species for our gardens, including the deciduous *Rhododendron japonicum*, one of the parents of the Mollis and Ghent azaleas. Under the forest canopy there was only one species: *R. brachycarpum*. Although Bean says this species can reach ten feet, those which I saw were low and spreading and never exceeded three feet, most often being less. An evergreen with leaves about six inches long, there are, in June, trusses of flowers which are white occasionally yellow and flushed with pink.

Many readers will consider that I have reached my ultimate with Rhododendron, but for my climax I will choose *Daphne kamtschatica*. This is locally common throughout Hokkaido forests as the variety *jezoensis*. It is low-growing and seems to spread by underground stems which travel a long way before emerging and producing leaves which are deciduous. Unlike many woody subjects, leaves are shed at the end of spring and it remains dormant throughout the summer with new ones appearing in October. The reason for my choice is the colour of the flowers which is a good clear yellow and fragrant. In other species of *Daphne* which are supposed to have yellow flowers, the colour is really no more than a yellowish green. Plants lifted from the wild have proved extremely difficult to establish.

THE EYE OF THE DESIGNER

By Sir Peter Shephard

The First Perry Johanson Memorial Lecture

Sir Peter Shephard of London, England will be giving an illustrated lecture on the visual qualities of design in both plants and architectural elements of gardens.

The lecture "The Eye of the Designer" will be open to the public. It will be held in Seattle, Tuesday, May 4th at 7:30 P.M. in the Museum of History and Industry Auditorium. The lecture will also be given in Tacoma, Thursday, May 6th at 7:45 P.M. at the Washington State Historical Society.

Sir Peter Shephard was President of the Royal Institute of British Architecture (1969-71), President of the Architectural Association (1954-55) and President of the Institute of Landscape Architects (1965-66). He was awarded a knighthood in 1980 for his outstanding achievements in Great Britain which included the landscaping of the Festival of Britain on the South Bank in 1951.

Sir Peter has designed and landscaped numerous universities, housing developments, zoos and gardens. He is a landscape advisor to the Ware Graves Commission which oversees the landscaping on the sites in Britain and Europe.

Since 1959, Sir Peter has been a visiting Professor of Landscape Architecture at the University of Pennsylvania. He was Dean of the Graduate School of Fine Arts at Pennsylvania from 1971 to 1979 and is now Dean Emeritus and Professor of Architecture and Environmental Design.

A Winter Walk through the Leach Garden

Vernece Sharp, Gresham, Oregon

I visit the Leach garden of Portland often because there is something beautiful to see every month of the year. The five acre garden lies between two hills with Johnson Creek running through and south side. The late John and Lilian Leach lived here more than 50 years and gathered plants from all around the world.

As I was taking one of my cold winter morning walks, I had a brainstorm! Why not make a botanical drawing of what is in bloom each month; even now in February, there are many plants in full flower. To name a few: *Cyclamen hederacifolium*, *C. coum*, *Chimonanthus praecox*, *Helleborus foetidus*, *Garrya* sp., *Synthyris stellata*, *Primula* sp., *Hepatica triloba*, etc.

Going up the trail, I came upon a *Helleborus* in all her glory, with a soft purple-velvety texture. Such a beautiful sight to see in the winter, with heads bowed as to be humble before the other plants for blooming so early. Then there is a bed of the white forms, plain or blotched, so wonderfully created. Such workmanship went into so beautiful flower with three creamy white petals, adorned with maroon spots. The other two petals are a whitish green as though they could not make up their minds to be a sepal or a part of the beautiful corolla. Then further up the trail, what a sight to behold *Cyclamen coum*. I first saw a white form of another species when I visited Roy Davidson's garden in Bellevue; it was the most beautiful one I have ever seen. If Mother Nature continues to treat us well, this little beauty, *C. coum*, should be ready for pen and ink in March; as of now it is just covered with red buds.



The Center for Urban Horticulture at the University of Washington needs equipment to develop the Union Bay Research Area. Does anyone have the following, in good condition, that they would care to donate or make available:

Tractor similar to a John Deere 301, 43 HP, large enough to accommodate front-end loader, rototiller.

Equipment for tractor listed above such as front-end loader, rototiller, wagon, plow, disk or grader blade.

Truck, two-ton dump.

Call: Dr. H. B. Tukey, Jr., Director
Center for Urban Horticulture
(206) 543-8616



Helleborus

Illustration
Vernece Sharp

Tidbits

by Ladybug



My experience with *chamaedaphne calyculata nana*: Plant this one on a bank or hillside in full sun with a western exposure and with sharp drainage in humusy-sandy soil. In these conditions it grows compactly to six to eight inches high spreading to a foot and more. For such a small leaved plant, it is surprisingly effective as the foliage turns to a bronze in the fall. The foliage continues to maintain its bronze color through the winter and in early spring as the branches bear masses of small contrasting white heath-like flowers in March and April. The flowering is followed by new soft green foliage.

Seemingly, it needs no special care. It is hardy, drought and insect resistant. It should be treated as an accessory to the landscape and preferably located where it will be viewed from below. I have used mine individually throughout the garden: to add interest at the edge of a rock, to soften a rigid corner, to fill a bare spot here and there, and to break up the prevalence of green during the winter season. As a landscaping tool, it can be amazingly useful.

Betty C. Miller, Seattle, Washington



Transplanting out of season: When for some reason it is necessary to transplant at a time of year when it is really too cold, puddle the plants in using warm water rather than cold. This surprisingly does not damage the roots. The same applies to working up peat moss--place desired amount of peat in the wheelbarrow, add warm water and work with hands in comfort.

Altha Miller, Issaquah, Washington



Good news concerning the Leach garden. "I have been hired by the city of Portland to map the collection of plants gathered by the Leaches. There are more than six-hundred species of plants, native and others. This garden is under re-development and we are in the process of working to open it as a botanical garden by the end of this year."

M. Larochelle, Gresham, Oregon



Elliottia racemosa: It has been generally thought seed of *Elliottia racemosa* required a three-month cold treatment for germination; however, some friends here in the East sowed theirs immediately and have had good results.

Hazel Smith, Morris Plains, New Jersey



Old wives tales: Laid just below the surface of the soil, banana skins have long been said to be very good for roses. Scientists now approve the practice having found that they are able to provide, as they rot quickly, a considerable quantity of calcium, magnesium, sulphur, phosphates, sodium and silica.

Altha Miller, Issaquah, Washington



N.O.H.S Seed Disbursement 1982

By now you have the 1982 NOHS seed exchange list and have made your choices. It is a good time to try growing some of the species that you cannot find in nurseries. From good friends we have received seed from some rare and interesting plant material such as *Elliotia racemosa*, as well as unusual natives of Western North America.

The Seed Exchange Committee would appreciate your comments regarding the species you would like to find included in future lists. We are especially interested in trying to supply hard to find seed, including some of our own native material. Wouldn't you be interested in collecting on your own this summer and fall for our exchange? We have such a variety of sources--mountains, eastern and western, seaside, bog, desert and prairie--all supporting interesting and different species.

If you are interested in collecting seed and would like to share with us, write or call: Mrs. Phil Duryee, 1115 41st East, Seattle, Washington 98112. Telephone: (206) 329-2062.

In upcoming journals we will have articles on collecting, cleaning and packaging seed.



IN LOVING MEMORY

Jim Madison

Janet Lane

Letters to the Editor

I thoroughly enjoy the journals, and in spite of the fact that I live on the East coast, there are many plants in my garden from the Seattle area. Your journals are always of interest and each issue contains subject matter to stimulate the plant lover. Your articles are full of enthusiasm and information, and I might add, they continue to call me back to the Pacific Northwest.

Sally Reath, Devon, Pennsylvania

Thank you very much for the journal which you sent me. I was most interested in the article on *Diplarche*, as it was one of the plants I had hoped to collect in Nepal. I had not realized that there were two species.

Enclosed are a few seeds; I had retained a packet, so that we could try again if the first batch failed! I have split our spare packet in half, so good luck. I brought three plants of *Diplarche multiflora* back with me and they are looking well after three months in Edinburgh. With a bit of luck one will flower this spring, as it had flower buds formed in the autumn when I collected it.

Ron McBeath, Royal Botanic Garden, Edinburgh

Editor's note: We are deeply indebted to Mr. McBeath for sending me a generous portion of seed that he collected during his fall expedition to Nepal. This was turned over to our NOHS seed exchange. For those members who have requested any of this seed, would you please report back to us for publication in Horticulture Northwest regarding success and any information about these plants?

Today the packets of note paper arrived, and I can't tell you how much Roseann and I like it. It is magnificent! The drawings are so beautiful. We will undoubtedly get more; they would make fine gifts.

J. D. Vertrees, Roseburg, Oregon

Mr. Alfred Evans has just handed me some numbers of your Horticulture Northwest. It is a delightful publication which I would very much wish to receive regularly in this library for the use of our staff and students and the public. I wish to obtain back numbers to keep a complete file.

M. V. Mathew, Librarian
Royal Botanic Garden
Edinburgh, Scotland

The Swiss Botanical Walks Program is an exceptional opportunity not likely to be repeated. I previewed the program last summer and will go again this August. (See San Francisco Travel Service ad inside the back cover.)

Susan M. Smith, San Francisco, California

Your article, "Destination Yellowknife" indicates your continuing interest in the *Ericaceae*, but has left you feeling frustrated about having no worthwhile *Chamaedaphne calyculata*. I intend to try to correct this for you. The variety *nana*, which we have, is a vast improvement over the species, but I agree with you, it does look a bit leggy. A few years ago we found a seedling (in our Canadian peat) that grows much slower than *C. c. nana* and has more rounded leaves. It has only been here a few years, but so far appears much more ornamental and much more in proportion to the alpine or rock garden. It roots well. You can help us appraise this little fellow . . . when hardened off, I will send you a small plant.

Jim Cross, Cutchogue, New York

Editor's note: The magnificent little *Chamaedaphne calyculata* has arrived in beautiful condition. It is truly a gem! How a tiny shrub, two inches tall and three inches across could be so covered with swelling flower buds is quite unbelievable. This could easily become one of my favorites among the many interesting *Ericaceae*.



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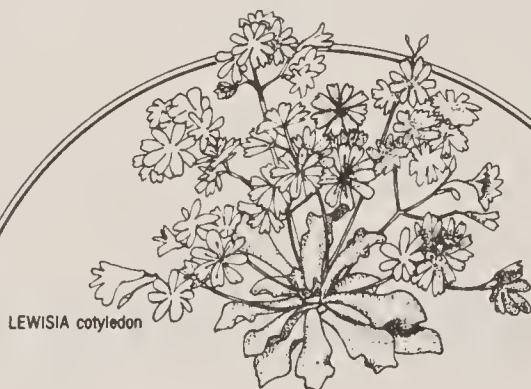
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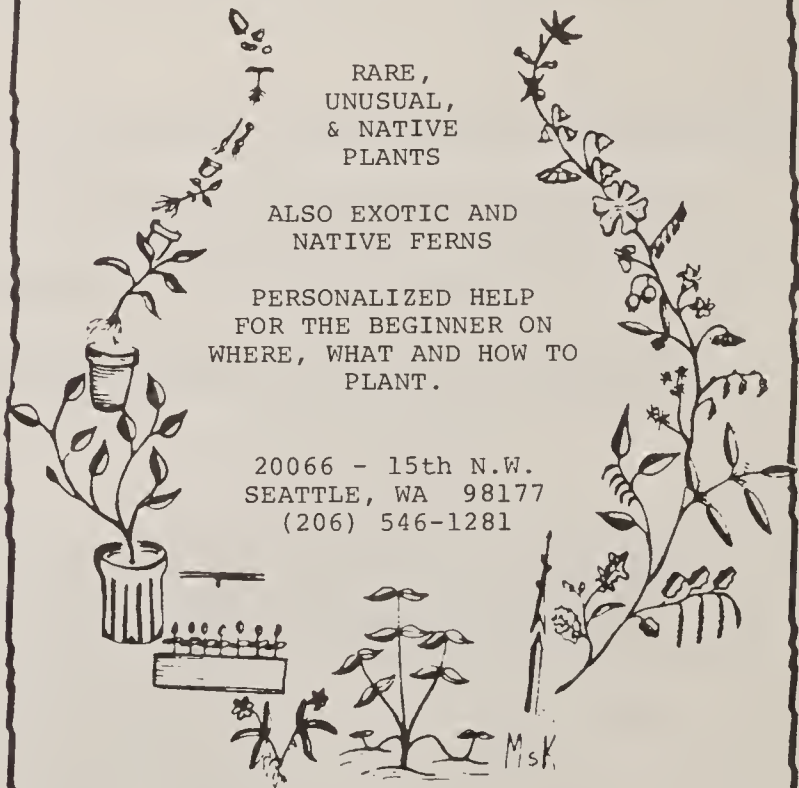
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